Mr. Steve Bell
ABC News
1124 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
9/8/77

Dear Mr. Bell,

Oltmans new copout this morning, "don't you think this should be investigated - I'm only reporting what I was told" - reminds me of an earlier con man with the same line, Hugh McDonald. McDonald had legitimate credentials, as Art Kevin can tell you, from his career in the Los Angeles Sheriff's department.

The lawyer for a publisher who was much tempted by the McDonald scenario had me go over what McDonald submitted. It was child's play to prove McDonald was a faker on the JFK assassination.

All these people who attract major-media attention on the political assassinations have one thing in common - they are theorizers. Crazy or rational they do not deal in fact. Instead they present theories.

Enough is known about each of the major assassinations to establish a substantial part of the corpus delecti. What is known about the body of each crime, and by this I am not saying what the official allegations claim, limits what can be theorized.

I have never read or heard Oltmans coming close to a fact, and my reading goes back to the transcript of his first interview with DeMohrenschildt.

Perhaps your people like the mileage they get with these cheap sensations. I regard them as a ripoff of the national mind. I doubt any good reporter wants anything to do with them.

I also doubt that ABC wants to expose itself. However, if you want to find out whether there can be anything to what Oltmans says "Donaldson" says, give me a tape of Donaldson or Oltmans reporting Donaldson on how the crime was committed and I'm confident I can let you know promptly. I'm as confident I'll prove it is faking.

This kind of thing becomes disinformation. It serves the interests of the spookeries, which do have much to hide. It thoroughly confuses the people and it destroys the credibility of those who undertake serious inquiry, those people like you rarely have a chance to hear about.

Too bad that there is no show or newsappeal in fact, which can inform the people and help the system to work.

This is not because solid information on this subject does not have popular appeal. It is because those who decide what reaches the people prefer to avoid what is solid.

Alas.

Best wishes,

Harold Weisberg